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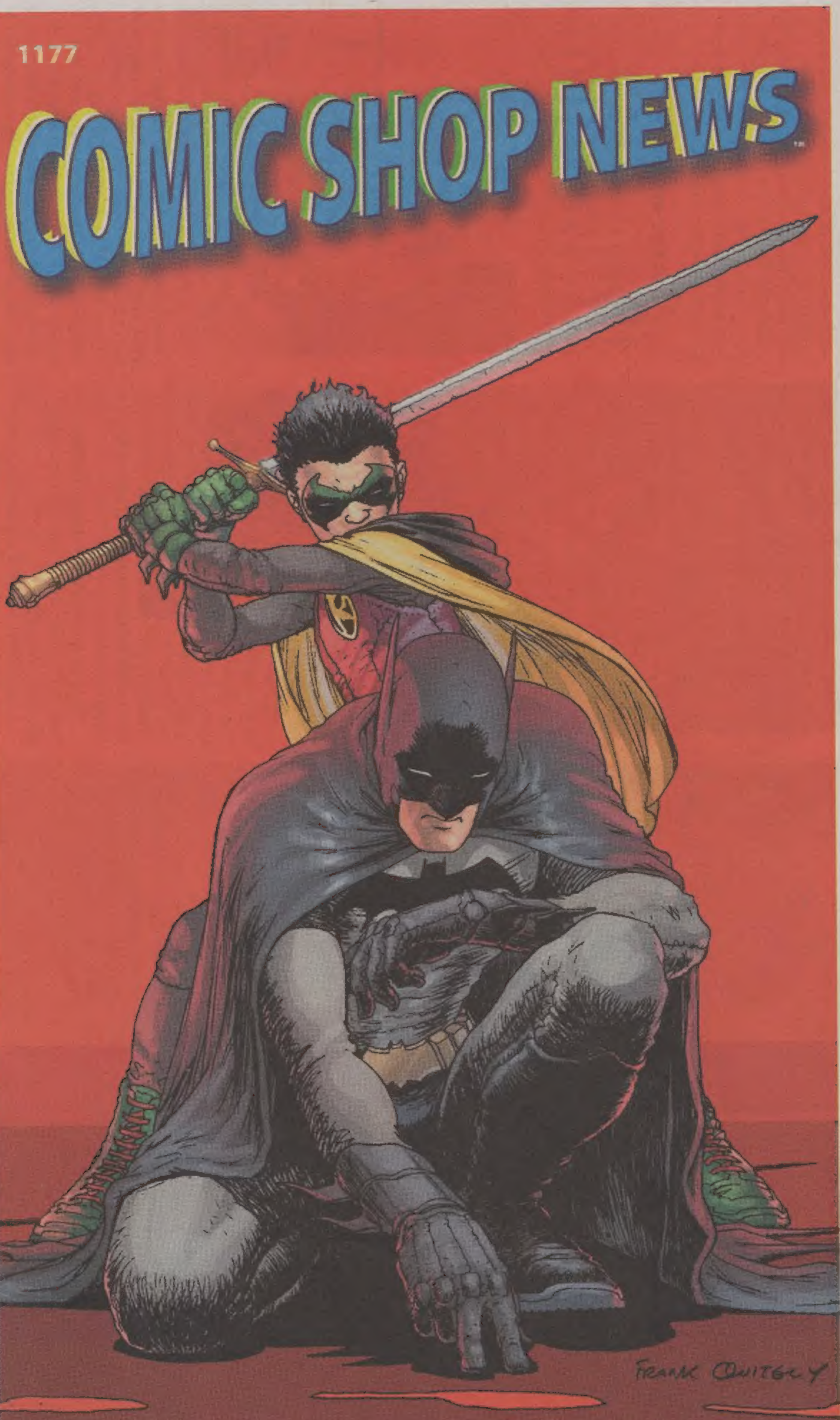

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Legacies & Legends

DC both explores and honors its storied past this spring with a trio of projects that chronicle the company's 75-year comics history—one a history, one a reference work, and one a compelling limited series.

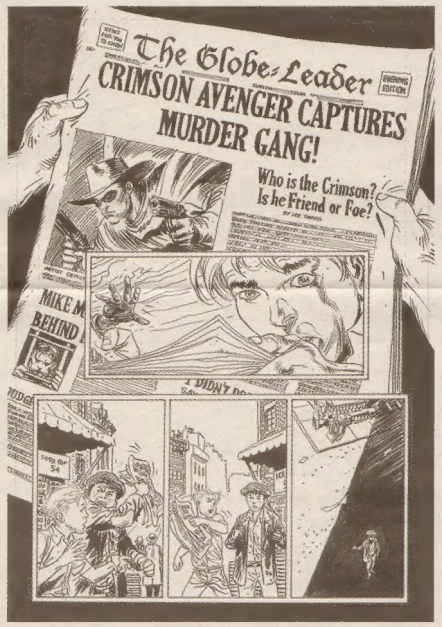
The History of the DC Universe is a revised and updated edition chronicling the fictional history of the DC Universe, taking into consideration the changes the DCU has undergone in the aftermath of ***Identity Crisis, Infinite Crisis, Final Crisis, 52, Countdown,*** and other DC events.

Who's Who in the DC Universe offers updated reference pages for major DC characters—both heroes and villains—in an all-new fifteen-issue limited series.

But the big event is ***Legacies,*** a ten-part miniseries that launches in May. *Len Wein* is the writer of the ten-parter, joining an all-star artistic lineup that includes the first-issue father-and-son illustration team of *Andy Kubert & Joe Kubert.*

"Being asked to work on these historic and iconic characters is an honor," artist *Andy Kubert* said. "Being asked to work with the creators involved—that I grew up reading… and got *raised* by—is not only an honor, but awe inspiring."

DC's *Alex Segura* reports that each issue of the series will spotlight a different period of DC history in two separate stories, with each issue moving bringing readers closer to the present. The first issue will feature the birth of the DC Universe and the beginnings of the costumed mystery men of the Golden Age, while *JG Jones* supplies the art ***for*** the first issue's backup tale.



"Legacies is the history of the DCU as told from the point of view of the man on the street," *Len Wein* said on the DC blog ***The Source.*** "It starts at the dawn of the Golden Age and right now it runs right up to the moments before ***Countdown to Infinite Crisis*** begins."

Arrows' Rise & Fall

It appears that Oliver Queen's career is about to follow an arrowlike trajectory: after a period of rising, it's about to fall.

Justice League: The Rise and Fall #1 bridges the gap between the end of ***Justice League: Cry for Justice,*** the upcoming ***Justice League: The Rise of Arsenal*** four-issue miniseries, and "The Fall of Green Arrow," a powerful story arc that begins in ***Green Arrow #31.***

Readers of ***Cry For Justice*** know some that major events have been shaking up Green Arrow and his supporting cast's status. Specifically, Red Arrow finding himself missing an arm—a rather serious injury for an archer.

What happened? Who's to blame? What does this mean for the Emerald Archer and his former sidekick? We don't know, but *JT Krul,* co-writer of ***The Rise and Fall*** and writer of ***Green Arrow*** and ***The Rise of Arsenal,*** can offer a little insight into what's in the works.

"I was super fortunate to be able to play a role in ***Blackest Night,*** and I have to say I'm even more excited — if that's possible — about being able to take on Roy Harper and Green Arrow as their stories spill out of ***Cry For Justice,***" Krul said. "James has been building to a monster climax in his book, and no two characters will be as changed as much as Roy and Ollie. And, the story isn't even over yet. The title ***Rise and Fall*** says it all in terms of where these characters are headed. It's going to be a dark and tragic road for both them, and I'm hoping readers will be hooked by where Ollie and Roy come out in the end."

As the saga begins, a controversial decision threatens to split the League as a shocking secret's revelation changes Green Arrow's life forever. From there, Green Arrow's guilt overwhelms him in ***Green Arrow #31*** as former allies Hal Jordan, Barry Allen, and the rest of the League set out to track down the archer. Meanwhile, Roy Harper tries to come to terms with the loss of an arm... only to find that his dangerous journey into despair is just beginning.

Justice League: The Rise and Fall is illustrated by *Mike Mayhew;* ***Green Arrow #31*** is illustrated by *Diogenes Neves;* and ***Justice League: The Rise of Arsenal*** is illustrated by *Geraldo Borges & Marlo Alquiza.* All three books are slated for March release.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Darick Robertson Vacations in the Hyborian Age

Conan has faced many adversaries over the course of his life... but he has never faced someone just like him... until now. But he's about to face off against "The Mad King of Gaul," a bandit-turned-ruler whose life mirrors Conan's in many ways.

Conan: The Weight of the Crown, a oneshot that pits Conan against the Mad King, is both written and illustrated by *Darick Robertson*, who's making his ***Conan*** debut, leaving the world of ***The Boys*** for a vacation in the Hyborian Age.

Robertson explained how he landed the ***Conan*** assignment. "***Conan*** editor, *Philip Simon* approached me last spring, and offered me the one shot. When he asked me who I wanted to work with as writer, I offered to do a proposal if he was open to it, so I could write it myself. He was very enthusiastic about it, and so I sent in my proposal."

The story, which is set earlier in Conan's life, "is a tale about Conan joining a rogue army that defends a beautiful valley called Gaul near the western border of Aquilonia," Robertson told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Chris Arrant*. "It's prime real estate. Their leader is a former Aquilonian general who took a blow to the head with a mace and, when he recovered, believed the Valley was rightfully his. He led a revolution, took it as his own, and declared it his kingdom. Rather than squabble and lose armies to this guy, Aquilonia basically called a truce and he now defends the passage from invaders that might make their way up to Aquilonia.

"Conan gets hired into his army as a mercenary. Being awesome at what he does, Conan gains clout amongst the people. When the "Mad King" unexpectedly dies in battle, the 'wise' men decide to go against the dead King's wishes and give the crown to Conan, so Conan will protect them, rather than the son who was rightfully supposed to inherit the crown. But Conan isn't really prepared for the responsibility of being a leader. Conan's a warrior, a barbarian, and the story explores the consequences of the people's cowardly choice."

How are the Mad King and Conan alike? "The Mad King's early days were spent like Conan's, with thieving, mercenary work and wandering. But the Mad King really 'goes sane' in a lot of ways and saw his life as something more. They call him 'mad' because he chose to defy the monarchy in Aquilonia and carve out a life for himself and his family. Conan is not the family type. The Mad King fights for a future; Conan lives in the moment. But considering where Conan's fate leads him, Conan has leadership qualities in him, and that's what the mad King responds to. He sees him as a diamond in the rough and a kindred spirit."

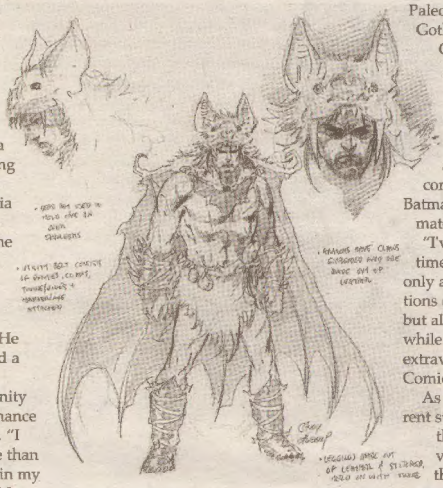
Robertson enjoyed both the opportunity to visit Conan's world, as well as the chance to once again write as well as illustrate. "I want to write more, if for nothing more than to improve, since everything I've done in my career I've learned by just doing it until I improve. So *Philip Simon* encouraging me to write this was a bit of him calling my bluff, as I wasn't really sure what I was going to write once I got the offer, but it's been a great experience and I want to do more.

"Ultimately, there's a great feeling of satisfaction in creating something in its entirety from plot to finished art. The creators I really admire inspired me, such as *Will Eisner* and *Frank Miller*. These creators worked within the industry but outside of it as well..."

When it comes to artistic influences, Robertson cites one particular artist as his Conan influence. "For me it was *Frank Frazetta*. I dedicated this comic to him because it was his work and *Boris Vallejo's* fantasy art that I had up on my walls as a kid, and that led me to want so much to create this kind of art. As I've matured, I really fell in love with Frazetta's work all over again. He drew from his imagination, using almost no photo reference and yet mastered dynamic anatomy..."

Does Robertson have more Conan stories that he'd like to tell? "I do! I am outlining a miniseries for Conan and hopefully I will get to work on that later next year. I felt a little sadness reaching the end of this project because I have been enjoying it so much, so I am doing some reading, research and I will hopefully be back in 2011 with another Conan story. Time will tell!"

Conan: Weight of the Crown is slated for release from Dark Horse next week.



Bruce Returns—And It's About Time!

While the heroes of the DC Universe believe that Bruce Wayne is dead, astute readers of ***Final Crisis*** know that the Dark Knight is still alive somewhere... or somewhen.

And now Bruce is determined to find his way back home, winding his way through the timestream to return to Gotham City.

To DC's heroes, it appeared that Batman was killed by Darkseid—but as it turns out, he was propelled into another era by the mysterious and powerful Omega Effect. His long-awaited journey back to the DCU begins in ***Batman: The Return of Bruce Wayne***, a six-part series by *Grant Morrison* and an all-star cast of artists that includes *Chris Sprouse* on the first issue.

Morrison describes the series as "the latest chapter in the long-running, 'definitive' Batman epic." In a conversation with *John Geddes* for ***USA*** Today, Morrison explained that "***Return*** is a fairly intricate time-travel story in which the world's greatest hero, the optimum man, is up against the supreme challenge to his ingenuity and skill. How does Batman get out of the ultimate trap? It has a mystery and an apocalyptic countdown going on, there are some major twists and reveals, and it sets up big changes to the Batman universe status quo.

"The first episode is set in the Late-Paleolithic Era, the second is in Pilgrim-era Gotham Village, and we also get to see Gotham in Western or noir style. Each of the stories is a twist on a different "pulp hero" genre — so there's the caveman story, the witch hunter/Puritan adventurer thing, the pirate Batman, the cowboy, the P.I. — as a nod toward those mad old 1950s comics with Caveman Batman and Viking Batman adventures. It's Bruce Wayne's ultimate challenge — Batman vs. history itself!

"I've tried to thoroughly research each time period so that the stories work not only as at least fairly plausible reconstructions of life in the real 17th or 19th centuries but also as romanticized "pulp" versions too, while at the same time referencing the more extravagant history of the fictional DC Comics Universe in the background."

As to how this series will affect the current status quo in the DCU, Morrison said that "the status quo of the Batman universe will be changed completely after this book."

Batman: The Return of Bruce Wayne is slated to debut in April.

Making His Marc on the Man of Steel

Superman has benefited from the literary talents of some of the field's most respected writers—from *Otto Binder* to *Edmond Hamilton* to *Jim Shooter* to *Denny O'Neill* to *Alan Moore* to *Geoff Johns* to *Kurt Busiek*. And now, another top talent is joining that roster as *Marc Guggenheim* takes over as writer of ***Action Comics*** later this year... just in time to chronicle one battlefront in ***The War of the Supermen.***

Comics fans know Guggenheim for his prior work on such series as ***Amazing Spider-Man*** and ***The Flash***. Film fans already recognize Guggenheim as the man tapped to co-write the upcoming ***Green Lantern*** film. Television viewers know him as, among other things, a writer of ***FlashForward*** and the creator of the acclaimed and too-short-lived series ***Eli Stone*** (a series that most assuredly deserves

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
YOU'RE FINISHED, BIGSHOT!
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
WRONG! I'M WALKIN' AWAY SCOT-FREE!
AND THERE'S THE REASON WHY!
MY DAUGHTER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-28
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to return in comics form!)

"One of my earliest memories was reading — not even reading, just looking at the pictures, actually, as I was too young to read –*Action Comics*," Guggenheim told DC's *Alex Segura*. "It's an enormous thrill and a humbling thing to write a comic you literally grew up reading. When D.C. called, I understood how President Obama must have felt when the Nobel Committee called him. Now I just have to work hard not to screw it up."

Guggenheim's first issue of ***Action*** is slated to debut this summer.

CSNsider

•DC has tapped ***REBELS*** artist *Andy Clarke* as the man who'll supply the visuals for the fourth ***Batman & Robin*** story arc. "After Andy's recent work on ***REBELS*** and ***Batman Confidential***, we were dying to get him on to one of the main Batman titles," Batman group editor *Michael Marts* said. "And this story arc of ***Batman & Robin*** is the perfect fit for him—*Grant Morrison* actually tailored the script toward Andy's artistic strengths." Clarke's run begins with ***Batman & Robin #10*** in March.

•*Greg Capullo* is supplying the art for the variant cover for ***Image United #2***, featuring the Image heroes in conflict with Omega Spawn. The color version of this cover will be unlimited, while the black and white version will be offered as a 1-for-100 incentive.

•Cover changes for ***Catwoman #83*** and ***The Power of Shazam! #48***, two ***Blackest Night*** tie-in books slated for release next week. *Adam Hughes* will now supply the cover art for ***Catwoman***, while *Jerry Ordway* will do the honors on ***The Power of Shazam!***

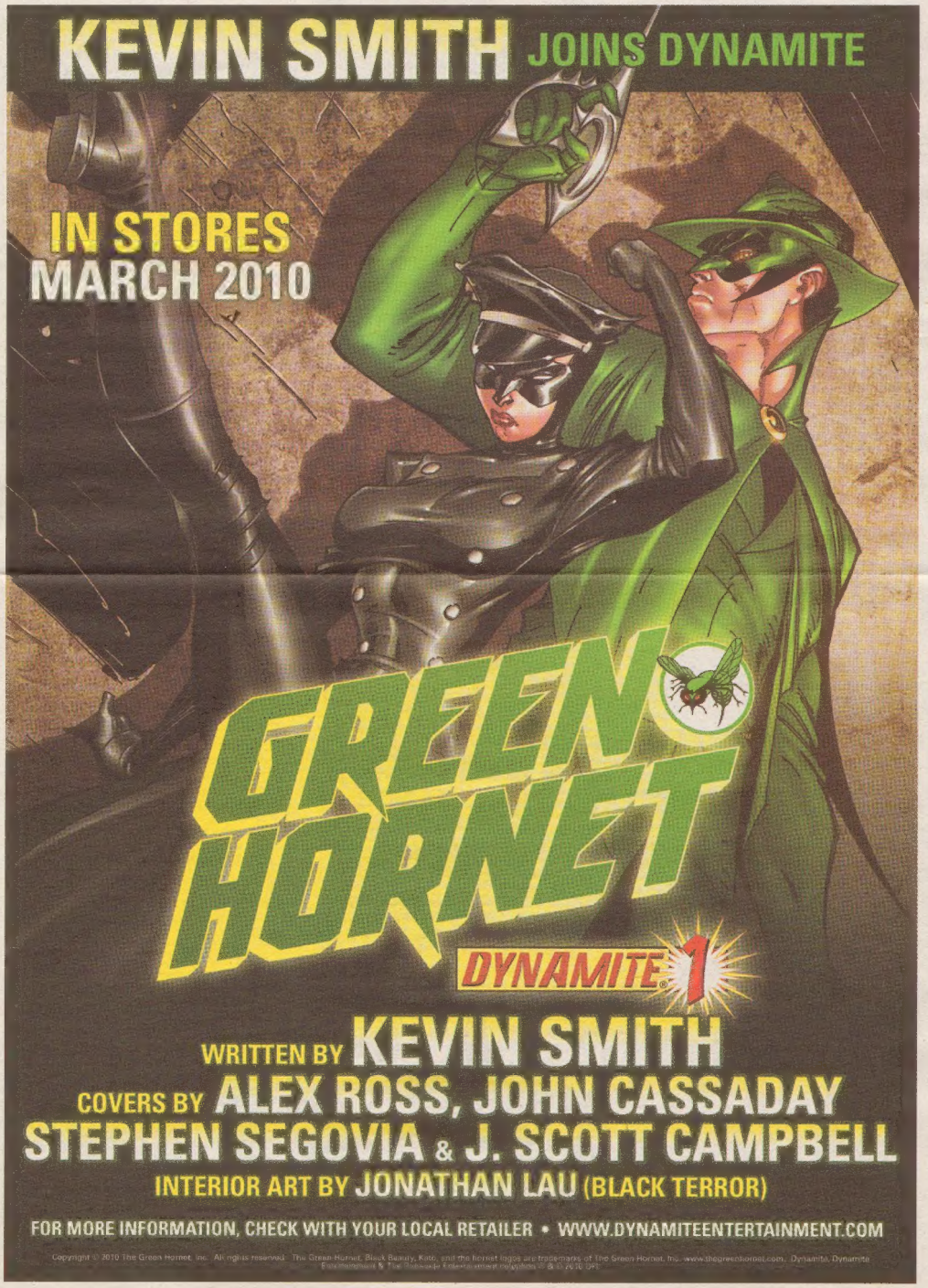
•Marvel has added a 1-for-300 *Joe Quesada Sketch Variant* for ***Siege #2***; this is a pencil-art version of the Quesada cover that is featured on the 1-for-200 ***Siege #2*** variant. Check with the friendly folks at your local comic shop for info on price and availability.

•***Marvel Boy: Uranian #2*** will be 48 pages rather than the initially-solicited 40 pages.

•*Carlo Barberi* has been tapped to supply the art for ***Deadpool #19***.

•*Peter Vale* provides an art assist on ***X-Men Forever #15***, joining series artist *Tom Grummett*.

•Marvel has added ***Dark Reign: The List—The Hulk*** to the pages of ***Incredible Hulk Premium HC Volume 1: Son of Banner***, increasing the book's pagecount to 144.


KEVIN SMITH JOINS DYNAMITE
IN STORES MARCH 2010
GREEN HORNET
DYNAMITE 1
WRITTEN BY KEVIN SMITH
COVERS BY ALEX ROSS, JOHN CASSADAY STEPHEN SEGOVIA & J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
INTERIOR ART BY JONATHAN LAU (BLACK TERROR)
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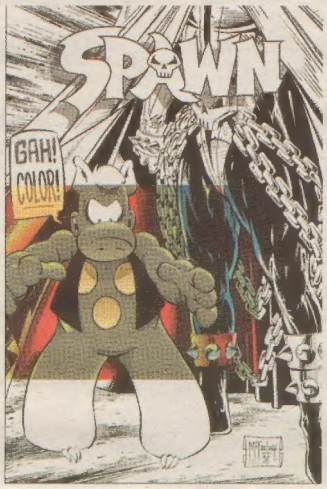
•And while we're talking about Spawn, here's great news for collectors of the *Todd McFarlane* series: McFarlane and *Cerebus* creator *Dave Sim* have reached an agreement that will result in the inclusion of the long-out-of-print ***Spawn #10,*** which guest starred Cerebus. ""It hasn't been reprinted since it first came out," *Dave Sim* said. "I'm very glad that's all over with after 14 years. Todd sent me black and white scans of ***Spawn #10*** which will be published in a Cerebus Miscellany volume some day and, hopefully, ***Spawn #10*** will be included in any and all future collections if the Toddmeister decides to make that official McFarlane policy." The



first place this issue will appear is in ***Spawn Origins Collection Deluxe Edition Volume 1 HC,*** a 620-page hardcover that includes stories written by *Frank Miller, Alan Moore, Grant Morrison, Dave Sim,* and *Todd McFarlane.* (Now, if only he and *Neil Gaiman* could reach an agreement on that other out-of-print ***Spawn*** issue...)

Making a List, Checking it Twice...

Yeah, we know that Christmas has come and gone... but there's a Free Comic Book Day on the horizon, and Diamond Comics Distributors has revealed the books that the Gold sponsors will be offering—and that list includes such high-profile publishers as Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, and Image.

These books—which Diamond says "includes a comic book for everyone's tastes" – range from comics specifically geared towards "all ages" readers, to one-shots that serve as a kick-start to some of the major publisher's biggest 2010 story events. "Gold Sponsor comics include special FCBD editions designed to attract new readers into comic shops with some of the industry's most widely recognized characters," Diamond added.

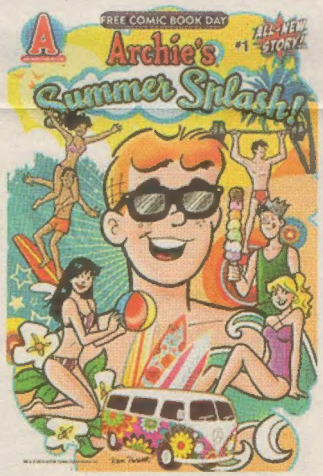
"This year's roster of Gold Comics looks amazing," said FCBD spokesperson Elissa Lynch. "We're pleased to showcase the best the comics industry has to offer–and hopeful that this year's comics will drive new customers to see what's great about comics and their local comic book shop."

The lineup includes:

•***Doctor Solar/Magnus*** (Dark Horse) - The dawn of a new age of superhero excitement

begins as Dark Horse Comics proudly presents the return of two of the most legendary characters in the annals of comics: Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom and Magnus, Robot Fighter — re-imagined for the 21st century by comics legend, writer *Jim Shooter*! All new content and storylines for this free issue.

•***Archie's Summer Splash! #1*** (Archie) - "Whose *Beach* Is It Anyway?": Sun, sand, swimsuits and cool rockin' tunes — no, it's



not a cinematic "beach party" blast from the past, but a whole new summer splash from Archie and his friends.

•***War Of The Supermen #0*** (DC) - A war is coming, and all that stands between Earth and 100,000 vengeful supermen is one Superman! Special #0 issue featuring all-new material previewing the conflicts to come.

•***Fractured Fables*** (Image) - This special FCBD title offers a small taste of the new hardcover anthology from Silverline Books due later in the year. An all-star cast of writers and artists have been assembled to turn familiar fairy tales and nursery rhymes on their ear to make kids *laugh*!

•***Iron Man/Thor FCBD 2010 Edition*** (Marvel) - Two of Marvel's heaviest hitters like you've never seen them before! A major new direction for the Marvel Universe kicks off here on Free Comic Book Day!

•***Kizoic Presents: Shrek & The Penguins Of Madagascar*** (Ape) - Featuring four stories by the artists and writers of the upcoming ***Shrek*** and ***Penguins of Madagascar*** comic books!

•***G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #155½*** (IDW) - Larry Hama continues his original and ground-breaking ***G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero*** saga with the very next issue (but, you know, 15 years later).

•***Mouse Guard/Fraggle Rock*** (Archaia) - Two all-new stories in one fantastic flip-book.

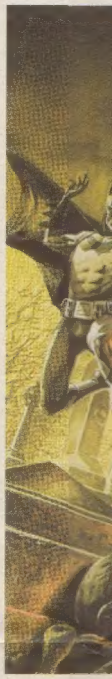
•***Toy Story*** (Boom) - With ***Toy Story 3*** hitting theaters this summer, don't miss this opportunity to get a free issue from the ongoing ***Toy Story*** series from BOOM Kids.

•***Yow! The John Stanley Library*** (Drawn & Quarterly) - D+Q delivers another wholly original and boisterous FCBD issue that will entertain readers of all ages—from the world's greatest all-ages cartoonist, *John Stanley*, in a beautiful package designed by *Seth*.

Look for a list of 2010 Silver Sponsors and their offerings in the next week or two!

Coming Comics— DC in March

Tim Drake and Stephanie Brown cross paths again in ***Batgirl #8*** and ***Red Robin #10,*** a two-part crossover tale. When Ra's al Ghul attacks on Batman's closest allies, Red Robin and Batgirl will have to put the past aside to save Leslie Thompkins's life.



The true identity of Gotham City's new crimelord is finally revealed in *Tony Daniel's* ***Batman #697...*** and that identity will surprise everybody – especially Batman!

Artist *Andy Clarke* joins *Grant Morrison* in ***Batman & Robin #10*** as the duo launch the three-part "Batman Vs Robin." Why would Talia al Ghul manipulate her son Damian into taking action against Batman? Will Damian do as Mother says… or stay loyal to Dick Grayson?

Blackest Night #8 presents the dramatic conclusion to the comics event of the year—and this story is so big, DC's had to add eight extra pages to contain it all! *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, Oclair Albert, & Joe Prado* present the ultimate battle for the fate of the DCU as the heroes face off against the darkness of sentient space. What does the future hold for Green Lantern, The Flash and the rest of the world's greatest heroes and villains? Find out here as the stage is set for the next epic era of DC Comics!

When Booster Gold rescues his sister from the timestream in *Dan Jurgens'* ***Booster Gold #30,*** he soon realizes that the sister he saved is not the same girl he remembers. Will the two be reunited as Booster Gold and Goldstar – or will Michele disappear into the timestream forever? And what will become of Rip Hunter?

Joe Kubert takes readers back to mid-60s Southeast Asia in ***Dong Xaoi, Vietnam 1965,*** a 200-page original hardcover graphic novel that tells the harrowing, true story of a detachment of Special Forces soldiers on a simple recon mission into the village of Dong Xaoi, Vietnam, that turned suddenly deadly. The book is based on extensive information gathered from the surviving members of the unit. It covers not only the action of the event but the details of deployment and build-up that led to the deadly encounter for these young American G.I.s.

DC's fascinating new pulp universe is finally unveiled in *Brian Azzarello & Rags*

FOGHORN-- BRING THE KID OVER HERE!
FIRST TELL ME-- WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
SHE'S-- A GOOD LITTLE GIRL.
I LIKE YOU, TOO.
DON'T GO SOFT ON ME, YA FOOL!
I NEED HER IN ORDER TO ESCAPE.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-29
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*Morales' **First Wave #1.*** In the shadows of the War, the roots of the Golden Tree cabal grew deep into the heart of a fallen world... and the leaders at the heart of this secret organization see no place in their utopia for heroism. Doc Savage, struggling with the loss of his father, has been blind to their

advance – until now. Central City's mysterious Spirit has caught wind of their plans as well. But whose side have the Blackhawks chosen? What is the Red Right Hand? And where is the Batman?

Geoff Johns & Doug Mahnke present the penultimate chapter of ***Blackest Night*** in the pages of ***Green Lantern #52.*** DC assures us that this one will b ea must-read—and considering their track record on all things ***Blackest Night*** thus far, we believe 'em!

The Green Lantern Corps descends on Earth to make their final stand against Nekron and the Black Lanterns in ***Green Lantern Corps #46*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Rebecca Buchman.*

Billy Tucci, fresh off the battlefields with ***Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion,*** unites with *Jimmy Palmiotti & Justin Gray* for ***Jonah Hex #53.***

The Justice League's new lineup is solidified in ***Justice League of America #43*** by *James Robinson, Mark Bagley, & Rob Hunter.*

The events of ***Cry For Justice*** lead into ***Justice League: The Rise and Fall Special*** by *James Robinson, JT Krul, & Mike Mayhew;* from there, the saga continues into ***Green Arrow #31's*** "The Fall of Green Arrow" by *JT Krul & Diogenes Neves* and ***Justice League: The Rise of Arsenal #1*** by *JT Krul, Geraldo Borges, & Marlo Alquiza* (see the story in this issue of ***CSN*** for more info).

Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti join forces with original ***Jonah Hex*** illustrator *Tony DeZuniga* for ***Jonah Hex: No Way Back,*** an original hardcover graphic novel that reveals how Jonah Hex's rough family life transformed him into the justice-thirsty vigilante he became. This heartbreaking, brutal original graphic novel, set against the unforgiving landscape of the Wild West, reveals for the first time how his difficult upbringing made him that era's most feared bounty hunter. Along the way, Hex must come to terms with the death of a loved one, long thought lost, battle El Papagayo and his gang of bandits, and attempt to make peace with his own past.

For Thomas Andrew Tresser, aka Nemesis, the world of metahuman espionage is never what it seems. After his recent "reeducation" at the hands of the Global Peace Agency, Nemesis finds himself tasked with uncovering the truth about his mission and the true identities of those hoping to unleash a great evil on the world, Nemesis is forced to confront the fact that he may not be able to trust anybody in the universe – including himself. Follow his quest for the truth in ***Nemesis: The Imposters,*** a four-issue miniseries by *Ivan Brandon & Cliff Richards.*

Geo-Force faces off against Black Lightning for control—and the fate—of the Outsiders in *Dan DiDio, Philip Tan, & Jonathan Glapion's* ***Outsiders #28.***

The new Superman event "Brainiac and the Legion of Super-Heroes begins in ***Superman: Last Stand of New Krypton #1,*** courtesy of *James Robinson, Sterling Gates, & Pete Woods.* It's New Krypton's worst nightmare as Brainiac attacks the planet, determined to recapture the city of Kandor! But General Zod has been waiting for this moment since Brainiac first attacked Old Krypton – he has a plan to save his people, but at the cost of Earth and the future as we know it! So it's up to Superman, Supergirl, Superboy and the Legion of Super-Heroes to stop the two madmen before they destroy everything! The story continues in ***Adventure Comics #9, Supergirl #51,*** and ***Superman #698,*** all slated for March release.

Kathryn Immonen, Ben McCool, Clayton Henry, Julian Lopez, and more offer a collection of Superman tales featuring Bizarro, Lois Lane, and others in ***Superman 80-Page Giant #1.***

While Roy Harper lies in critical condition in the aftermath of ***Justice League: Cry for Justice,*** his dreams show him the perfect future life he wants for the Titans in ***Titans #23*** by *Eddie Berganza & Angel Unzueta.*

Gail Simone and fan-favorite artist *Nicola Scott* reunite for ***Wonder Woman #42,*** an explosive tale featuring the stunning return of a star-spanning threat from Diana's past. Can even Wonder Woman stop Earth from this world-destroying madwoman? Guest-starring the Green Lantern Corps!

In the aftermath of ***Blackest Night*** and ***The Flash: Rebirth*** comes the beginning of a new era for Barry Allen and the deadly Rogues—and you can get in on the ground floor with ***Flash: Secret Files & Origins 2010 #1***! As Barry readjusts to life again, strange happenings explode across Central City that will lead to one of the most bizarre murder mysteries Barry will ever face. Plus, don't miss Wally West, Kid Flash, Gorilla Grodd and a cold case that will send The Flash down a path unlike any other.

DC collected volumes (advance solicited for April and May release) include:

- ***Atomic Knights HC,*** collecting the legendary *John Broome-Murphy Anderson* post-apocalyptic tales from ***Strange Adventures #s 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 136, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 153 156 & 160.***
- ***Batman: Long Shadows HC,*** collecting ***Batman #s 687-691.***
- ***Batman: The Streets of Gotham Volume 1 HC—Hush Money,*** collecting ***Streets of Gotham #s 1-4, Detective #852, & Batman #685.***
- ***Booster Gold: Day of Death TP,*** collecting ***Booster Gold #s 20-25*** and ***Brave and Bold #23.***
- ***Crisis on Multiple Earths Volume 5 TP,*** collecting JLA/JSA crossovers from ***Justice League of America #s 159-160, 171-172,*** & ***183-185.***
- ***Jonah Hex: Six Gun War TP,*** collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 44-49.***
- ***JSA: Thy Kingdom Come Part Three TP,*** collecting ***Justice Society of America #s 19-22*** and the ***Justice Society Kingdom Come Specials: Magog, Superman,*** and ***The Kingdom.***
- ***Power Girl: A New Beginning TP,*** collecting ***Power Girl #s 1-6.***
- ***Red Robin: The Grail TP,*** collecting ***Red Robin #s 1-5.***
- ***Secret Six: Depths TP,*** collecting ***Secret Six #s 8-14.***
- ***Showcase Presents Dial H for Hero TP,*** collecting the Robby Reed tales from ***House of Mystery #s 156-173.***
- ***Solomon Grundy TP,*** collecting ***Faces of Evil: Solomon Grundy*** and the seven-issue ***Grundy*** limited series.
- ***Teen Titans: Child's Play TP,*** collecting ***Teen Titans #s 71-78.***
- ***Superboy: The Boy of Steel HC,*** collecting tales from ***Adventure #s 0-3 & 5-6*** and ***Superman: Secret Files 2009.***
- ***The Superman Chronicles Volume 8 TP,*** collecting the Superman tales from ***Action #s 44-46, World's Finest #5,*** and ***Superman #s 14-15.***
- ***Superman: The Coming of Atlas TP,*** collecting ***Superman #s 677-680*** and ***First Issue Special #1*** from 1975.

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in March

There's never been a more American town than Sparta. In Sparta they believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness through treachery, blackmail and murder – just like the Maestro taught them as he learned it from the U.S. President. Sparta is such a great place that no one ever thinks of leaving. It's been three years since anyone's tried, and he was never heard from again... until today, when Godfrey McLaine, the greatest quarterback in Sparta's history,

STAY BACK WHILE I GET AWAY--
THEN I'LL RELEASE THE KID.
NO! YOU'RE GONNA LET HER GO--
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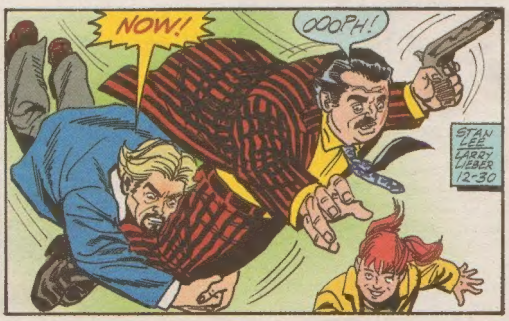


returns to Sparta, armed with a secret that will expose the rotten core of the American Dream. *David Lapham & Johnny Timmons'* ***Sparta: USA*** presents a unique take on what it means to be an American.

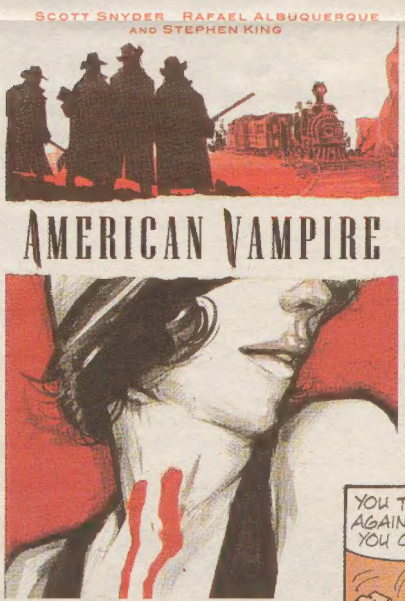
Marv Wolfman & Andrea Sorrentino's ***God of War #1,*** based on the Playstation game, is back on WildStorm's schedule for March release.

WildStorm collected volumes (advance solicited for April and May release) include:

- ***Ex Machina Deluxe Edition Book 3 HC,*** collecting ***Ex Machina #s 21-29, Ex Machina: Inside the Machine,*** and ***Ex Machina Special #3.***
- ***World of Warcraft: Ashbringer TP,*** collecting the four-issue limited series.

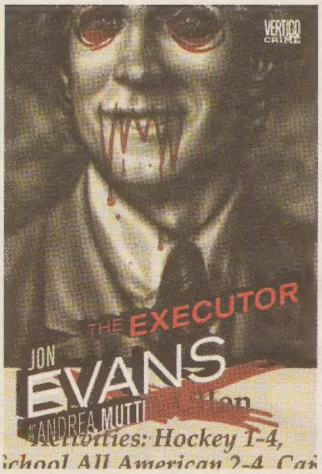
Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in March

Witness the birth of a brand new species of vampire in ***American Vampire,*** a new ongoing series that begins with five extra-sized issues featuring back-to-back stories by exciting new writer *Scott Snyder* and the master of horror himself, *Stephen King,* with art by *Rafael Albuquerque.* When notorious outlaw Skinner Sweet is attacked by an old enemy (who happens to be a member of the undead), the first American vampire is born... a vampire powered by the sun, stronger, fiercer, and meaner than anything that came before. Plus... Pearl Jones is a struggling young actress in 1920s Los Angeles. But when her big break brings her face-to-face with an ancient evil, her Hollywood dream quickly turns into a brutal, shocking nightmare.



In ***Fables #94,*** Rose Red has finally hit rock bottom. Does she stay there or start the long, tortuous climb back up? We're hoping for the latter, since *Bill Willingham, Mark Buckingham, & Steve Leialoha's* new arc is named after her, and there wouldn't be much of a story without her...

In ***The Executor,*** an original Vertigo Crime graphic novel, *Jon Evans & Andrea Mutti* tell the story of Joseph Ullen, a retired pro athlete who returns to his hometown in upstate New York when he's named executor of his high-school sweetheart's will. In a search to find out what really happened to Miriam following her mysterious death, Joseph is confronted with his own haunted past and the possibility that the two are connected.



Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for April and May release) include:

- ***100% TP,*** a softcover version of *Paul Pope's* groundbreaking miniseries.
- ***Sandman Mystery Theatre Volume 8: The Blackhawk & the Return of the Scarlet Ghost TP,*** collecting ***Sandman Mystery Theatre #s 45-52.***
- ***The Sandman Volume One: Preludes & Nocturnes New Edition TP,*** which presents the first eight issues of ***Sandman*** in an enhanced edition featuring the improved production values and coloring from the ***Absolute Edition.***

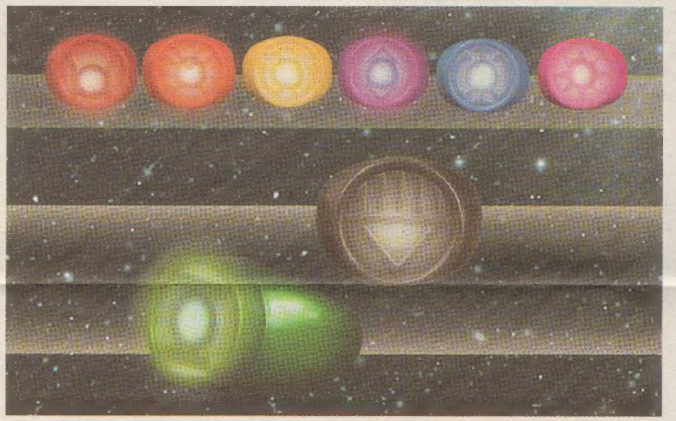
Coming in August from DC Direct

Paul Harding sculpts a pair of *Mark Buckingham*-designed ***Fables Busts,*** inspired by "Storybook Love" from Bill Willingham's ***Fables Volume 3.*** The ***Fables: Snow White Bust*** features Snow White poised to fire her weapon, while atop a base of relief sculptures seen in the story; the ***Fables: Bigby Wolf Bust*** features Bigby Wolf in mid-transformation from human to wolf, also atop a base of relief sculptures seen in the story.

DC Direct also offers a pair of celebrity likeness busts depicting some of the best-known actors to portray DC characters. ***Christopher Reeve as Superman*** presents the Man of Steel in an iconic hands-on-hips stance; ***Lynda Carter as Wonder Woman*** shows the Amazing Amazon in her trademark bullets and bracelets pose.

Blackest Night collectors will have plenty to choose from in August. The ***Blackest Night Sinestro Corps Member Mongul Deluxe Action Figure*** is an oversized 9" figure of the pivotal character from ***Blackest Night.*** Meanwhile, the ***Blackest Night Series 5 Action Figures*** include new figures of ***Black Lantern Batman, Black Lantern Nekron, Black Lantern Hawkman,*** and ***Black Lantern Deadman.***

Fans with wall space to spare will want to latch onto the ***Blackest Night #1*** and ***Blackest Night #2 Posters,*** featuring 24" x 36" reproductions of the cover art by *Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert.* (These posters are actually slated to arrive in comic shops in March.)



Love those multicolored power rings that DC offered back in November? Then you're *really* going to want the ***Blackest Night Power Ring Spectrum Set,*** which offers the eight variously-colored power rings, each fitted with a long-lasting LED bulb that lights up when the ring is slipped on a finger. The light can be turned off manually to preserve the battery. (Batteries can also be changed by using a special key included with the set.) The set is packaged in a deluxe window box, which makes a beautiful display when the rings are not being worn.

Selina Kyle and her feline friend celebrate another successful robbery by playing around in their overflowing sack of money and jewels in the ***Women of the DC Universe Series 3 Catwoman Bust,*** depicting the classic, purple-suited version of Catwoman, as designed by illustrator *Amanda Conner.*

Fan-favorite Green Lantern Hal Jordan is the latest character to join DC Direct's 1:2 scale bust line! The ***Green Lantern 1:2 Scale Bust*** presents the heroic test pilot-turned-hero is dressed in an authentic fabric replica of his modern-day costume, which is finely tailored over his cold-cast porcelain body. Mounted on a museum-style, pedestal display base, this mixed-media piece measures approximately 13" high.

The Joker joins the ***Gotham City Stories*** line as the third part of DC Direct's series of dimensional display pieces! After just pulling off a heist, the Clown Price of Crime clutches a bag of money and escapes out a window that's been melted by acid. This

YOU TURNED AGAINST ME, YOU CREEP?
I WON'T LET YOU HURT THAT KID!
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highly detailed resin rendition of The Joker is designed to hang on the wall or be displayed on a desk or shelf.

DC's funky, chunky ***Blammoids*** line continues with ***Blammoids Series 3,*** featuring minimally articulated sculpts of ***Two-Face, Cyborg, Wildcat, Robin, Catwoman,*** and ***Batman (Classic).***

Alex Ross's iconic art is getting miniaturized! The ***Superman Forever*** and ***Batman: The Dark Crusader*** 1:2 scale mini-statues feature all the sculptural details and intricate painting fans of DC Direct have come to expect.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in March

Acclaimed novelist and comics writer *Brad Meltzer* continues his "Twilight" story arc in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #33.*** The Slayer army has suffered heavy losses throughout Season Eight and faced all kinds of threats new and old, but the one mystery connecting it all has been the identity of the Big Bad: Twilight. In this issue, Buffy finally confronts Twilight one on one, setting the stage for Twilight's unmasking in ***Buffy #34!***

Another stunning *Frank Frazetta* painting fronts the adaptation of "The Hall of the Dead" in ***Conan: The Frazetta Cover Series #4.***

Fans know *Jesse Marsh* through his legendary run on Dell's ***Tarzan***—but that's not the only Burroughs hero that Marsh illustrated. ***Edgar Rice Burroughs' John Carter of Mars: The Jesse Marsh Years TP*** collects all three of the ***Dell Four Color Comics*** featuring Marsh's John Carter tales, written by *Paul S. Newman.*

Doug Moench teams with comics legend *Angelo Torres* for a tale of demonic devotion and organized crime in ***Creepy #3.*** In the backup tale, *Joe Harris &Jason Shawn Alexander* continue their weird revisionist look at the fall of the Nazi empire in the third part of "The Curse."

The ***Sin City*** and ***300*** art of *Frank Miller* is spotlighted on Dark Horse's latest round of Gelaskins, designed to fit perfectly on 13" and 15" laptops as well as iPhones.

Internet phenomenon ***The Guild*** comes to comics, courtesy of series creator, writer, and star *Felicia Day.* Chronicling the hilarious on- and offline lives of a group of Internet role-playing gamers, the Knights of Good, ***The Guild*** has become a cult hit and is the

winner of numerous awards from SXSW, YouTube, Yahoo, and the Streamys. Now Day brings the wit and heart of the show to this three-issue miniseries. In this origin tale of the Knights of Good, we learn about Cyd's life before joining the guild, how she became Codex, and how she began to meet the other players who would eventually become her teammates.

Dark Horse launches a new line of affordable reprints of Harvey Classics with ***The Harvey Comics Treasury Volume One: Casper The Friendly Ghost & Friends TP,*** a 6" x 9" volume featuring 200 pages of full-color reprints from Harvey's Golden Age.

Comic and cartoonist Scott returns with yet another book of bad advice wrapped in good intentions in ***Made with 90% Recycled Art: A Collection of Basic Instructions Volume 2 TP.*** Learn such important skills as How to Talk to a New Parent, How to Engage in Prefight Smack Talk, How to Complain about Work, How to Properly Perform a High Five, and more!

Dark Horse contrasts ***Peanuts'*** early days and its later look with the ***Peanuts Then and Now Figure Sets,*** launching with the ***Snoopy Then & Now Set.*** Each set shows the characters as they were in the old days and what they are like now.

Morgan Spurlock, Jeremy Barlow, Lukas Ketner, Tony Millionaire, Ron Chan, and others offer a look at what's happening behind the counters of your favorite fast-food joint in ***Supersized: Strange Tales from a Fast-Food Culture TP.*** This graphic novel offers an entertaining—and at times gut-wrenching—series of stories focusing on America's ubiquitous and potentially destructive fast-food culture.

Who was Kyle Reese before he met John Connor and was thrust through time to face off with a T-800 and fall for a waitress with a destiny? And who were his comrades in arms? Find out in ***The Terminator,*** a three-issue limited series by *Zack Whedon & Andy MacDonald.*

Here's a must-have for ***Usagi Yojimbo*** fans: a 12" plush figure of the ronin rabbit, all ready to snuggle!

Dark Horse collected volumes include:

- ***Barry Windsor-Smith Conan Archives Volume 2 HC,*** a 288-page collection of the last half of Windsor-Smith's acclaimed run on *Robert E. Howard's* famous barbarian.
- ***BPRD: War on Frogs,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries along with "Revival" from ***MySpace Dark Horse Presents #s 8-9*** and an original story by *Guy Davis.*
- ***Chobits Omnibus Book 2 TP,*** featuring the conclusion of *CLAMP's* tale in a hefty 720-page compendium.
- ***Conan Volume 8: Black Colossus TP,*** collecting ***Conan the Cimmerian #s 8-13.***

- ***Giant-Size Little Lulu Volume One,*** a 664-page trade paperback reprinting the first fourteen ***Little Lulu*** comics in black and white.
- ***Little Lulu Volume 23: The Bogey Snowman & Other Stories TP,*** a full-color collection of ***Little Lulu #s 112-117.***
- ***Predator: Prey to the Heavens,*** collecting the 2009 miniseries by *John Arcudi & Javier Saltares.*
- ***Star Wars: Invasion Volume One—Refugees TP,*** collecting ***Star Wars: Invasion #s 0-5.***

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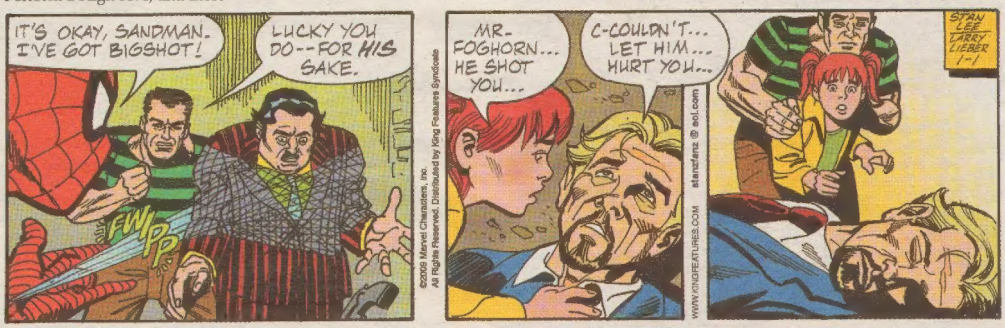
IT'S OKAY, SANDMAN. I'VE GOT BIGSHOT!
LUCKY YOU DO--FOR HIS SAKE.
FWIP
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C-COULDN'T... LET HIM... HURT YOU...
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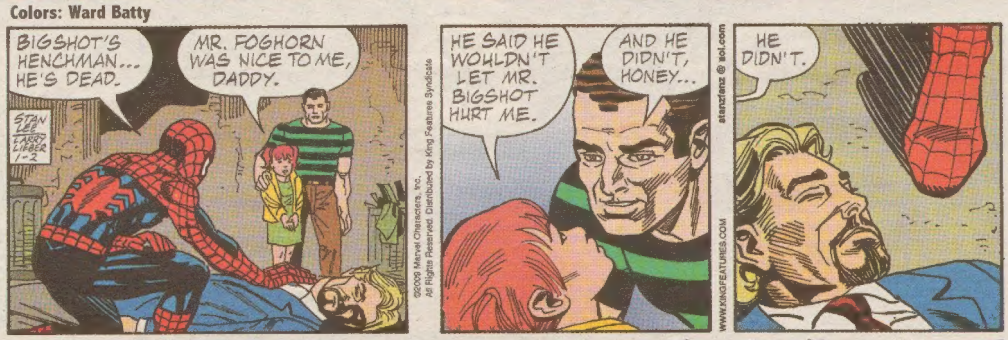
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-1

Colors: Ward Batty


BIGSHOT'S HENCHMAN... HE'S DEAD.
MR. FOGHORN WAS NICE TO ME, DADDY.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-2
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HE SAID HE WOULDN'T LET MR. BIGSHOT HURT ME.
AND HE DIDN'T, HONEY...
HE DIDN'T.
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